



SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1905

## KUROPATKIN'S CENTRE BROKEN

Japs Smashed Through and Captured Thirteen Siege Guns.

### RUSSIANS ARE RETREATING

St. Petersburg Believes Kuropatkin is Fighting Rear Guard Action to Cover Retreat to Tie Pass, and Will Need All His Ability to Extricate His Army—Desperate Fighting Around Mukden.

For 10 days the Japanese and Russian armies in Manchuria have been engaged in a mighty conflict, the issue of which has not yet been reached. Although the most of the news from the scene of the battle comes through Russian sources, and consequently may be supposed to present the facts in as favorable a light as possible for the Japanese, it is evident that the Japanese made some gains yesterday. St. Petersburg has an unofficial report that General Kuropatkin's center has been broken and that 13 siege guns have fallen into the hands of the Japanese. These guns, which are of six and eight-inch caliber, were given permanent emplacements on the line of the railroad north of Shakhe station, the fact evidencing the confidence of the Russians that the Japanese could not penetrate thither.

In St. Petersburg it is generally believed that General Kuropatkin was yesterday fighting a rear guard action to cover his retreat, and that last night witnessed a large withdrawal of troops toward Tie Pass. All of the commander-in-chief's ability, it is considered, will be required to extricate his army from its present predicament.

The issue, it is expected, will be decided today, and a great deal unquestionably depends upon the comparative ability of the opposing armies to resist the effects of hunger and fatigue, the limit of human endurance having recently been nearly reached on both sides. The statement that the Japanese exceeded those of the battle is a little known as to the number killed or wounded.

### RUSSIANS IN RETREAT

Mukden Said to Be Evacuated and the Great Magazines Burning.

London, March 8.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Tokio says: "Reports are current here that the Russians are in retreat and preparing to destroy the railway north of Mukden. General Kuropatkin is said to have gone to Fushun after holding a council of war of 100 officers. His left rear guard, consisting of 20,000 picked troops, is retreating. Chinese reports that Mukden has been completely evacuated and that its great magazines were set on fire by Japanese artillery."

Believe Kuropatkin Is Beaten. St. Petersburg, March 8.—That the battle of Mukden will go down in history with Liao Yang in the long list of Russian defeats is the almost universal belief in pessimistic St. Petersburg, which has forgotten the word victory. The war office does not admit that the issue of the great battle, which already exceeds in magnitude of operations and losses that of Shakhe, has been decided, although it is positively stated in high quarters that General Kuropatkin has telegraphed to Emperor Nicholas that it will be impossible to hold Mukden, and that the withdrawal of the army northward has already begun.

Nothing from General Kuropatkin later than Monday has been given out, but advices to St. Petersburg newspapers and dispatches to the Associated Press indicate that the position of the Russian army, after a day of furious and unprecedented fighting, is desperate, but not absolutely hopeless, some Russian correspondents even predicting a Russian victory soon, and one saying that the extreme Japanese left has already begun to retire southward.

While the Japanese hurled themselves forward at every point yesterday, their main energies were behind the blow west and southwest in an attempt to envelope the Russian right and drive a wedge through the line at Madzupu; but General Kuropatkin seems to have been able successfully to change front on the line of his shattered right, aligning from the northwest to southeast, to protect the railroad to Mukden; and at nightfall it was reported that he was practically holding all his positions. At the same time he was drawing in and shortening his line to the southeast.

According to reports, all the concentrated attacks of the Japanese to the westward failed, and the effort of Generals Nogai and Oku to push the encircling movement north and eastward across General Kuropatkin's line of communication was blocked. Reports, however, are conflicting. One correspondent telegraphs of hearing firing to the northward, towards Tie Pass, which may be between Cossacks and a flying column of Japanese.

Both sides are terribly exhausted by their three days of continuous fighting, and all the correspondents at the front intimate that the issue must be definitely decided today.

### PIERCED FIGHTING AT MUKDEN

Struggle Now In Progress Likely to Decide Fate of Battle.

Mukden, March 8.—Fighting of the fiercest nature, which is likely to decide the fate of the battle, which has been in progress for 10 days, began yesterday and has continued uninterruptedly up to the present time on a front 14 miles long west of the railroad and on a line with the Shakhe river. The Japanese also have made a desperate attack on Bentsiaputze, and reports are arriving here that fighting was renewed on the extreme left of the Russian army. Both sides are fighting with desperation to the westward, though the troops are well nigh exhausted. The issue of the battle may depend largely on the relative physical condition of the rank and file. In the main features, the combat is very much like that at Liao Yang, and if the Russians should be able to crush the flanking force victory may be regarded as won. The losses in the 10 days of battle on both sides are already greater than were the casualties in the battle of Liao Yang and are likely to increase as the days pass before the issue is fully decided.

The Japanese made a succession of desperate attacks on General Tserpitsky's division on the west front south of Mukden, repeating the assault at intervals of two hours, with constant reinforcements. About 50,000 Japanese, with 200 pieces of artillery, participated. All the attacks were repulsed, there being enormous losses on both sides. One extremely important position changed hands several times. Finally General Tserpitsky on horseback, placing himself at the head of his troops, led his regiments to the attack with colors flying and music playing. The attack was successful. After it was over the victorious soldiers crowded around General Tserpitsky, shouting his praises and even kissing his hands and feet. The Russians captured several quick-fire guns and many prisoners, including officers.

It was reported that Major General Gerngross, of the East Siberian Rifles, toward evening had taken and held Tatchekiao. The cannonading in the neighborhood of Tatchekiao is now increasing in intensity. The Japanese apparently have brought up reinforcements and are attempting to crush General Gerngross.

The appearance of this region, which has now been two days under fire, begins to resemble a siege. Graves are increasing in number, while dead animals strew the ground. The troops have been seven days without rest, and their powers of resistance are declining. They plainly show the strain of the terrible week. The ground is deeply frozen.

### TWO DEAD, ONE DYING

Chester Druggist Attacks Mother-in-Law and Wife With Hammer. Chester, Pa., March 7.—Mrs. Isaac Abrams, aged 50 years, was beaten to death and Mrs. Sadie Chatham, aged 30 years, her daughter, was fatally injured by the younger woman's husband, John E. Chatham, 35 years old, a prominent druggist of this place. After brutally assaulting the women Chatham attempted to kill his 1-year-old child and then shot himself in the head with a revolver, dying later at a hospital. Mrs. Abrams was found dead in the sitting room in the rear of the drug store, her body lying a few feet away from the unconscious form of her daughter.

Mrs. Chatham recovered consciousness at the hospital and in answer to questions said: "John did it." The baby's head was grazed by a bullet and one of its ears was badly lacerated, but the little one was not seriously hurt. The weapon used by Chatham upon his wife and mother-in-law was a hammer. The tragedy was discovered by Emanuel Eliason, a boy, who went to the store to make a purchase. Finding the place apparently vacant he peered behind the prescription counter and saw the druggist lying in a pool of blood. He ran from the store and notified the police.

Mrs. Abrams is the wife of a respectable mechanic. She was a visitor at Chatham's house and the police expressed the opinion that she was summoned there by Mrs. Chatham to settle a dispute between the druggist and his wife. Her head and face were beaten almost to a pulp.

### GENERAL MARKETS

Philadelphia—Flour steady; winter extras, \$4.25@4.40; Penna. roller, clear, \$4.50@4.75; city mills, fancy, \$4.65@4.85; Rye flour steady; per barrel, \$4.40. Wheat steady; No. 2 Penna. red, new, \$1.13@1.15; Corn steady; No. 2 yellow, local, 54c. Oats firm; No. 2 white, clipped, 37c. Older grades, 36c. Hay firm; No. 1 timothy, \$14@15. Pork firm; family \$17. Beef steady; beef hams, \$23@24. Live poultry steady; hens, 13c.; old roosters, 9c. Dressed poultry steady; choice fowls, 14c.; roosters, 10c. Butter firm; creamery, 34c. per pound; best steady; New York and Penna. 35c. per dozen. Potatoes steady; new, per bushel, 45@50c.



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**The Secret.**  
I kissed Ethel and Mabel, too. Likewise tasted the lips of Sue. Each one astonished murmured: "Well, I like your cheek! Don't you ever tell!" When next morning they came my way. Why did each pouting sneer and say: "Don't speak to us, or brothers we'll bring—Nasty old horrid old Mormon thing!"—The Beau.

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